

John Kennedy's words, we will pay any price, bear any burden to defend freedom here and around the world. God blesses America, God blesses America through the resolve and the courage of its people and its commitment to freedom.

REFLECTING ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this moment marks the second anniversary of the surprise attacks on America in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. As we reflect on why America was attacked, I believe it is clearer than ever: It is because America is the symbol of liberty and freedom in the world.

Our values of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and the opportunities for women to fully participate in society are cherished. But these values are a challenge to evil people who fear our freedoms as undermining their enslavement of others.

Our resolve to promote democracy is unwavering, and the pledge of President Bush has never been more correct. We will not waiver, we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail. Today, I depart on a delegation to Baghdad to thank our brave Armed Forces, and it has never been more appropriate to declare: God bless our troops and God bless America.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. McNULTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join with the citizens of the United States of America and the citizens of the free world in remembering the victims of September 11, 2001.

I also remember their families. I think of my friends, John and Judy Reo of New York, who lost their son John Reo, and their son-in-law, John Swain, on that day.

I also remember with deepest gratitude all of the emergency personnel, the police officers, the firefighters, and the others who, when the masses were running away from the tower buildings, ran toward the buildings, into the buildings, up the stairs, many to their deaths. Why did they do that? Because that is their job, and they did it very well on that day. Because the vast majority of the people in those tower buildings below the point of impact of those planes survived, and they survived because of the heroic efforts of those police officers, firefighters, and the others who ran to their aid. So we should remember their contributions

on a daily basis, because they are on guard for us 365 days a year to protect our lives all over this country.

And, finally, I join with all of you, with deepest gratitude, to the leaders of this Nation for bringing us together. And we should remember to remain united as a Nation, because if we remain united as a Nation, the forces of evil shall never prevail.

TRIBUTE TO C.E. "PEP" COONEY OF ARIZONA

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of C.E. "Pep" Cooney, an Arizona television icon. Pep's career in broadcasting spanned more than 45 years, taking him from advertising to president to general manager at KPNX, where he led that station to its stature as the number one rated television station in the State.

Pep's nightly commentaries, or "Pep talks," made him one of Arizona's most recognizable figures. Pep was also the quintessential community leader. Whether he was lending his talents to the Valley Big Brothers, United Way, Boy Scouts, the Fiesta Bowl, or countless other organizations, Pep was constantly engaged in activities to benefit the Valley and the State of Arizona. When the history of Arizona is written, Pep Cooney and the institutions he help to build and maintain will be a prominent feature.

It is a rare individual who can be successful with his career, while devoting so much time to his community. It is truly an exceptional individual who can succeed in these areas while putting his family first. Pep was admired and respected by his colleagues and community. Most importantly, however, Pep was adored by his family. As a neighbor and friend to some of Pep's children and grandchildren, I have had the good fortune to watch them together. Surely the youngest of Pep's grandchildren knew little of his career success or his standing in the community. They just knew that they were his priority.

That, Mr. Speaker, is Pep Cooney's most enduring legacy. May it be ours as well.

MAKING AMERICANS SAFE

(Mr. DeFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the way Congress and the President could best commemorate the terrorist attack, the tragedy of 9/11, and the loss of thousands of innocent lives would be to ensure that we have done all in our power both here and abroad, that Americans are as safe as possible against another assault.

Unfortunately, as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and a senior member of the Subcommittee on Aviation, I can say with confidence that we have fallen far short of that mark. Significant portions of the Aviation Security Act have not been implemented. Our first responders, those who responded so selflessly on that tragic day, still lack basic resources and help from the Federal Government, even as Congress is considering the President's request for another \$87 billion for Iraq.

On this day, Congress should resolve to remember by redoubling its efforts, avoiding dangerous distractions, and providing all the funds necessary so we can say with confidence, never again.

HONORING THE FALLEN

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard so often this morning, this is a special day, and it is appropriate for us to take the time to honor the fallen and acknowledge our gratitude to our first responders and to our brave men and women who are serving here in this country and half a world away.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also appropriate to take a moment to honor those who were here and served in this House 2 years ago. Mr. Speaker, as you have pointed out, this building, this House, was, in fact, one of the purported targets of the terrorists that morning, terror that was prevented by the actions of passengers high above the Pennsylvania countryside. Like millions of Americans, I began that day narrowly focused on my own personal concerns, and like millions of Americans, I ended that day watching Members of this House singing God bless America on the Capitol steps at sunset.

On that day, I did not know that my path would lead me here. But I remember the peace that was brought to me and my family by the visible cohesiveness of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for that day and I thank you for this day as well.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I, like many of my colleagues here this morning, rise to talk about September 11 and what it means to all of us as Americans, what it means to me as a New Yorker in particular, and the fact that these brave people that lost their lives, more than 3,000 of them, our lives will never again be the same. America lost its innocence that day, and we have been thinking ever since about how we can best respond to ensure that we can